

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

July 1, 2014

United States Department of Labor
Office of Grants Management
Attn: Steven A. Rietzke
200 Constitution Ave, NW
Room N4716
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Mr. Rietzke:

I am writing on behalf of the Delgado Community College which has submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Labor for funding under the U.S. Department of Labor's Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) discretionary grant program. It is my pleasure to strongly support Delgado Community College's efforts to enhance workforce training for Louisianians.

Delgado is highly regarded for its work in workforce development and aligning the needs of employers to the training delivered to students. The submission of this grant application comes at a very critical time as Louisiana is faced with an unprecedented opportunity requiring the College to broaden capacity to train a regional and state workforce. There is a documented emergence of careers associated with what is being called Louisiana's new "energy boom". Energy investments in petro chemicals, advanced manufacturing, and the energy industry totaling \$21 billion will likely be the largest job creator and will sustain growth until 2020.

According to the Louisiana Workforce Commission, it is estimated that between now and 2020, there will be 42,000 jobs available in occupations that do not require a four year degree but rather a high school diploma and various levels of competency based training. Also, the eminent wave of new career openings will be more than quadrupled by the massive retirement of baby boomers. In an effort to meet this need, Delgado Community College will provide competency based, accelerated manufacturing and energy sector career pathways training that will lead to industry-valued credentials, while providing TAA impacted workers, veterans and other students the comprehensive supportive services needed to increase completion and ultimately be successful in the workforce.

I believe you will find the application to be exemplary in every way, and I would appreciate every appropriate consideration be given to the Delgado Community College's application, within the applicable guidelines, during the review. I respectfully request any additional information you can provide on this matter and look forward to hearing from you about the final decision.

Thanking you in advance for your careful review and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator

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